

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 14-20 are withdrawn and will be pursued in a divisional application. Claims 1 and 7 are amended to more particularly recite the composition structure where longer carbon chains assemble beneath shorter carbon chains and form a corrugated wall of hydrocarbon chains oriented toward the gas, resulting in stable microbubbles during preparation and storage, even in the absence of crosslinking. Claims 5 and 11 are amended for standard Markush claim language. Claims 2 and 8 are amended to correct antecedent basis.

Support for the amendments is found at least at FIG. 1, p. 8 ¶ 22, p. 9 ¶ 29, p. 10 ¶ 31, and p. 17 ¶ 56. Thus, no new matter is added.

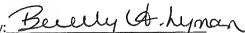
CONCLUSION

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, should any additional fees or surcharges be deemed necessary, the Examiner has authorization to charge fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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